

**On being
a farm wife
- And other
hazards
Joyce Bupp**



For a while there, I was eagerly looking forward to Valentine's Day.

For while I have no hopes for a dozen red roses at fifty bucks a shot, there was recent evidence that perhaps my valentines might all chip in and ante up about a 10 pound box of top notch chocolates for their chief cook and calf feeder.

They actually had told me, you see, that I don't weigh enough.

You've got to understand the background from whence this inconceivable notion cometh.

The problem was that I slowed up the sledding.

Site of this unlikely revelation is our favorite upstate haunt where squirrels and chickadees play in the piney woods and snowmobiles pack the mountain trails just right for a Lightning Glider streak down through the stands of laurel.

With eager anticipation, a perfect crispy, wintry morning and a mountainside filled with pristine snow laced with packed paths, we steadily ascended the trail during a quickie weekend stop at the hunting camp during a cattle-hauling business excursion.

It was Dad who departed first

from the summit, zipping downhill and disappearing around the first bend, through a patch of scrub logging regrowth, a cloud of snow flying from the sled runners.

I was nominated next on the run. Jouncing over the initial hip and rib jarring bumps in the trail, I swerved around the first sharp angle and eyeballed the fairly level stretches ahead, broken only by a slight incline.

While the first flat caused me considerable loss of momentum, the second demanded that I shove gloved hands into the snow beneath and "help" my mode of transport along until the slope again steepened.

Funny, I had remembered it as much faster. Maybe the ice storm the last time had helped.

Imagine the humiliation when, three quarters of the way down, a voice yelled into my ear "Move over!" and the teenager zoomed past at a clip considerably faster than mine.

Not much farther along, a second indignity was heaped on my belly-down prone form, clawing my way down this run inch by inch.

It was the junior farmer, guff-

fawing for all he was worth, and throwing back some snide remark as he swished past, leaving me to lurch to the bottom of the path where a trio of speedsters showered me with snide comments about my conservative coasting.

Ensueing runs down the mountain, even one on Third Gap's ice-packed dirt road, left yours truly bringing up the rear.

Plus, with each additional ride, the bumps grew higher and the dips deeper, while increasingly sore spots on hips and ribs

crashing into the sled screamed how black and blue they were turning.

It was a unanimous conclusion that maybe Mom needed more weight for speed and padding

A hint about Valentine's Day certainly couldn't hurt.

Second thoughts set in, though, when I hauled in the morning mail back home and there before my

eyes was a colorful catalog of clothing labeled "Full Figure Fashions."

I get the hint.

Skip the chocolates. Just lop off a section of cow mat for between me and the sled, and round me up a couple of heart-shaped rocks from the corn field that I can lace around my ankles for sledding weight.

Perry Co. DHIA

(Continued from Page B26)

**Winter Pruning Good for
Summer Flowering Plants**

Here's a reminder from C.R. Bryan, Jr., Delaware County Extension agent, that the dormant season is a good time to prune ornamental shrubs and vines, particularly summer flowering shrubs.

You should prune to improve the health of your plants, control size and shape, increase the flower display and remove overcrowded stems or branches. To improve the health of your plants, cut out dead, diseased or damaged wood and remove old wood that interferes with new growth

Unless you use them as formal hedges, prune your shrubs so they keep their natural shape. Vines need pruning to limit growth and remove old wood. By pruning branches back to a bud you can control the direction of growth. The new shoot will grow in the direction the bud points.

However, don't prune spring flowering shrubs. This would remove many of the flower buds that will bloom in the spring. Prune spring flowering shrubs as soon as the flowers fade in the spring before new growth begins

Ivan M Martin	55	8 3	305	17,574	4 1	721
	92	6 3	305	21,101	3 7	771
Duane L Hertzler	19	6-1	305	18,184	4 2	765
	20	5 10	295	20,509	3 6	739
Ed&Wilma McMillen	Lady	5 2	305	21,133	3 5	745
Gary H Haas	Ivana	9 6	302	18,909	3 5	667
	Rap	2 9	305	19,855	3 4	666
John L King	Alberta	7 3	305	19,163	3 6	683
	Evelyn	5 9	305	19,899	3 6	720
	Daisy	3 5	305	17,440	4 2	732
Dale Smoker	147	10 3	305	19,284	4 4	841
Edwin L Sheibley	Clem	6 3	305	20,236	4 1	835
	Joy	3 6	305	19,813	4 2	830
Arthur E Dum Jr	Tillie	4 11	305	18,135	3 9	711
Cedar Lane Farm	38	5 3	305	22,762	3 5	803
	47	5 5	250	17,071	3 9	660
R Jack Crozier	Becky	9 1	282	20,336	3 3	664
	Bessie	5 3	305	21,038	3 3	690
Gray Meadow Farm	Daphne	6-7	305	21,960	3 3	735
J Marvin Landis	45	5 5	305	14,579	4 9	717
J Ted Troutman Sons	Tina	4 5	305	17,671	3 7	650
Howard&Paul Barkley	Piney	8-9	305	22,082	3 4	742
JW&Cl Achenbach	Mabel	4 11	305	18,411	3 8	697
Robert&Bernice Gabel	Bonnie	7 8	305	19,856	4 0	796
Wayne L Stephens	Kendra	5 0	305	26,634	2 7	709
MW Smith Farms	Cindy	4 0	305	17,444	4 0	700



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